



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on LGBT Legislation in the Russian Federation**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 1, 2011

We are deeply concerned by proposed local legislation in the Russian Federation that would severely restrict freedoms of expression and assembly for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals, and indeed all Russians. As Secretary Clinton has said, gay rights are human rights and human rights are gay rights.

We have called on Russian officials to safeguard these freedoms, and to foster an environment which promotes respect for the rights of all citizens.

The United States places great importance on combating discrimination against the LGBT community and all minority groups.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.